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Progress Report

European Pine Shoot Moth Surveys

Oregon and Washington

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by

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This is the first in a series of forthcoming reports covering the progress and findings of European pine shoot moth surveys and eradication projects in Oregon and Washington during 1962.

Eradication surveys will be undertaken for the second straight year in Portland and Spokane, Washington. The first step of another long range eradication program will be initiated in six western Washington communities. A brief resume of these activities follows:

Portland, Oregon

The Portland survey and eradication project started March 19 and is still in progress. Because of last year's findings of a few isolated infestations scattered throughout the city, survey efforts this year will be increased. The plan is to conduct a complete survey of the city as well as several outlying communities, inspecting every pine on all properties, front and back yards. As of March 29, 14,218 trees have been examined on 19,931 individual properties (residential and business) and required 246 man days of effort.

Agricultural Research Service personnel working with state nursery inspectors have already examined several pine producing nurseries in north-western Oregon, but the results of this cooperative venture are not yet known.

So far these combined efforts have yet to uncover any new infestations of the European pine shoot moth.

Spokane, Washington

The Spokane project will also be heading into its second consecutive year, but is not scheduled to start until the last week of April. Survey man-power will be reduced considerably from that required last year, because those efforts showed that many of the areas within the original survey boundary can be eliminated due to a lack of pines. Emphasis during the forthcoming program will be placed on repeated, systematic sampling of native ponderosa pine contiguous to a previously known infestation.

Western Washington

As a result of the 1961 regionwide survey, infestations of the European pine shoot moth were found in six Washington communities: Bellingham, Mt. Vernon, Chehalis, Shelton, Menlo and Suquamish. Eradication surveys will begin in Bellingham on April 9 and progress south to Chehalis. By removing these isolated infestations from these communities, it is hoped that the remaining known distribution of the shoot moth can be contained within the Seattle-Tacoma area and thereby postponing its spread to native stands until other, more practical control and regulatory measures can be taken.

Regionwide Survey

The regionwide detection survey will be conducted for the second straight year. The first two-man crew has already been hired and assigned to assist in the Portland survey and possibly later in the Washington projects if they are needed. Three additional two-man crews will be hired in June and assigned to various communities in Oregon and Washington during the summer. Practically all of these men are returnees from last year's survey and their experience should pay dividends during the present venture.